



## **Conservation Successes – June 2004**

### **Historic Hydro Settlement Agreement**

Lower Penobscot River, Maine

Veazie Dam, Penobscot River, Maine (June 25, 2004) – Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Norton joined Maine Governor Baldacci, Penobscot Indian Nation Chief Dana, the VP for Pennsylvania Power & Light and a coalition of environmental organizations to sign the Lower Penobscot River Basin Comprehensive Settlement Accord. This precedent-setting agreement calls for the removal of two dams on the river, which will allow for the endangered Atlantic Salmon to pass freely to and beyond the reservation lands of the Penobscot Indian Nation for the first time in almost 100 years. A significant recreational fishery will be restored, along with increased opportunities for public use of this valuable resource. Under the agreement, there will be no net loss of power generation as turbines and other equipment from the dams to be removed will be reused at existing hydro facilities in the project areas. This deal ends over ten years of litigation associated with multiple FERC relicensings and ends the proposal by PPL's predecessor to build a new dam. NPS input included developing Section 4(e) conditions on behalf of the tribe, as well as participation in negotiations that lasted four years. For further information, please contact Kevin Mendik, Hydro Program Coordinator, NE Region, at [kevin\\_mendik@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_mendik@nps.gov) or at 617-223-5299.



DOI Secretary Gale Norton and Gordon Russell USFWS, view Veazie Dam, ME. Photo by Kevin Mendik.

### **Cumberland Trail Conference dedicates 18 miles of new trail**

Partners gather to celebrate on National Trails Day



Dr. John Librett of the Centers for Disease Control reads a letter from the Surgeon General. Looking on (L-R) is Jack Benson, City of Chattanooga Council Chairman, Rex Boner, VP of Conservation Fund, Barry Spearman, Interim ED of Cumberland Trail Conference, Betsy Child, and Jim Fyke, Commissioner and Deputy TDEC. Photo by Jeffrey Hunter.

Soddy-Daisy, TN (June 5, 2004) - On National Trails Day 2004, the Cumberland Trail Conference dedicated 18 miles of new hiking trail just north of Chattanooga, Tennessee. More than 400 people participated in the event which included guided hikes, exhibits, great music, and an uplifting dedication ceremony. The Cumberland Trail is a linear state park in Tennessee and, when completed, it will connect Chickamauga National Military Park with Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Although these two units of the National Park system are nearly 300 miles apart, the Cumberland Trail will connect these two national sites.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

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The Cumberland Trail is part of a planned 5,000-mile interconnected network of hiking trails planned for nine southeastern states, called the Southern Appalachians Initiative, a joint project of American Hiking Society and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.

The Cumberland Trail event featured a number of partners, including Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, City of Chattanooga, City of Soddy-Daisy, American Hiking Society, Memorial Hospital (Chattanooga), Hamilton County Health Department, and the National Park Service RTCA Program. Alison Bullock, Tennessee Projects Manager for RTCA was an integral member of event planning committee. RTCA Partner Jeffrey Hunter, who works with the American Hiking Society, coordinated publicity for the event. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Hunter, Director - Southern Appalachians Initiative at [jhunter@AmercianHiking.org](mailto:jhunter@AmercianHiking.org) or 423-266-2507.

### **Surplus River Access Site Becomes Community Waterfront Park**

Community obtains permanent access to Ohio River



Uniontown, KY (May 5, 2004) –The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred the Uniontown Ferry Access Site to the City of Uniontown, Kentucky, at no cost, for their community riverfront park. This 2.46-acre property provides a boat launching ramp, open space, and a scenic vista from a small peninsula extending out in the Ohio River. Formerly acquired and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for boating access, the property will be

operated as a community riverfront park and will be further developed with picnic tables and shelters. Valued at just over \$15,000, the property provides one of the few boating access sites in Union County, Kentucky area. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff negotiated the transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at [Bill\\_Huie@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

### **Overseas Heritage Trail adds new segment**

National Trails Day "Pedal-Paddle" event in the Florida Keys a success

Marathon, FL (June 5th 2004) - National Trails Day has always been an important celebration along the 106-mile Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, but this year was special with the inclusion of the Overseas Paddling Trail as its newest branch and its designation as a National Recreation Trail. The Overseas Heritage Trail spans the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West, utilizing the historic Flagler Railroad Bridges, while the Overseas Paddling Trail weaves through the islands, providing numerous non-motorized boating opportunities.

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People out enjoying the "Pedal-Paddle" event on the Overseas Heritage Trail. Photo by Steve Bowes.

This year's "Pedal-Paddle" event, held at the Coconut Cay Resort, was organized by Florida Bay Outfitters, Florida DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. RTCA has been an active partner with both trails and is currently working on the Overseas Heritage Trail Interpretive Plan and a map guide for the Overseas Paddling Trail. For more information please contact: Stephen Bowes, Outdoor Recreation Planner, RTCA, at [stephen\\_bowes@nps.gov](mailto:stephen_bowes@nps.gov) or 941-330-0069.

### **Trail Provides Vital Link in Calumet Region** Oak-Savannah Trail Opened



Opening of the Oak-Savannah Trail.  
Photo by Rory Robinson.

Northwest Indiana (June 5, 2004) - Just in time for National Trails Day, Lake County Parks unveiled the 9.5 mile Oak-Savannah Trail. This 12-foot wide multi-use trail follows the EJ & E rail line through the communities of Griffith, Calumet, Merrillville and Hobart in northwest Indiana. Lake County Parks has been working with the local communities for nearly four years to complete the trail. The county parks are working on a link on the west end of the trail that will tie it into the 11-mile Erie-Lackawana Trail, which currently runs from Hammond to Crown Point. On the east end of the Oak-Savannah, the town of Hobart is working to provide the link to the 6-mile Prairie Duneland trail that has been enjoyed by northwest Indiana residents for over 5 years.

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program assisted Lake County Parks with fundraising guidance and support, design advice related to operations of the trail, and building local community support for the Oak-Savannah. RTCA also participated in the ribbon cutting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, providing comments on National Trails Day's significance and the importance of trails to a community's health and well-being. For more information, please contact Rory Robinson, RTCA, at [rory\\_robinson@nps.gov](mailto:rory_robinson@nps.gov) or (330) 657-2951.

### **Extension of Benton MacKaye Trail** Community celebrates innovative partnership

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Ocoee, TN (June 5, 2004) - On National Trails Day 2004, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association celebrated the recent approval of an 85-mile extension of the Benton MacKaye Trail through the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests. Currently 93 miles in length, the Benton MacKaye Trail has its northern terminus at the Ocoee River in southeastern Tennessee. With the recent approval granted by the USDA Forest Service, the Benton MacKaye Trail will soon stretch northward to the southern end of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In addition, The National Park Service has approved routing the Benton MacKaye Trail over 90 miles of existing trails inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. By late 2005, the Benton MacKaye Trail will be 275 miles in length, and provide an alternative to the heavily traveled Appalachian Trail between Springer Mountain, Georgia and Davenport Gap on the Tennessee – North Carolina border.

The Benton MacKaye Trail project is a great example of the power of partnership. Representatives from the USDA Forest Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Hiking Society, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, and retailer Recreational Equipment, Inc (REI) were on-hand to dedicate a new segment of the Benton MacKaye Trail, and honor a few of the many volunteers who make the trail possible. The Benton MacKaye Trail is one component of a planned 5,000-mile interconnected network of hiking trails in the southeast, the Southern Appalachians Initiative, which is a joint initiative of American Hiking Society and the RTCA program. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Hunter, Director - Southern Appalachians Initiative at [jhunter@AmericianHiking.org](mailto:jhunter@AmericianHiking.org) or 423-266-2507.



Walt Cook painting trail markers on the Benton MacKaye Trail.  
Photo by Jeffrey Hunter.

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Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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